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Ms. Carol Hanlon
S&ER Products Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
P.O. Box 30307 M/S 025
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0707

VIA FACSIMILE

Re: Comments on the Department of Energy's Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation

Dear Ms. Hanlon:

I am writing to ask that the Department of Energy (DOE) recommend to President George Bush that the site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada be designated as the national repository for high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel.

Since 1983, the nation's consumers of nuclear-generated electricity have paid one-tenth of a cent per kilowatt-hour into the Nuclear Waste Fund created by Congress to finance the federal government's used fuel management program. Annual payments into the fund now range from \$710 million to \$760 million. The fund currently has a balance of approximately \$10 billion.

The commercial nuclear industry has demonstrated the operational excellence necessary to produce 20% of the US's electricity needs. The nation's citizens have relied on the federal government's promise to provide for the removal of the nuclear fuel to a centralized repository.

The National Academy of Sciences concluded in a June 2001 report that "after four decades of study, geologic disposal remains the only scientifically and technically credible long-term solution." DOE itself has spent two decades and over \$4 billion studying Yucca Mountain. The wealth of information contained in the DOE issued reports, in particular, the Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation, confirms that this dry, geologically stable, and remote location is well suited to the long-term protection of public health and safety and the environment.

As such, I strongly encourage and support a Department of Energy recommendation to President Bush to proceed with the repository at Yucca Mountain.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,


Yolanda F. Pagano